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IMMEDIATE

FRP:
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TOT: 170711Z SEP 86

TO: IMMEDIATE ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MEA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 17 SEPTEMBER 1986.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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1. LEBANON: PEACE PROSPECTS FADING

PRIME MINISTER KARAMI'S INITIATIVE TO END THE CIVIL WAR HAS ENCOUNTERED FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS AMONG RTVAL LEBANESE MILITIAS AND DECLINING SECURITY IN BEIRUT AND SOUTH LEBANON.

KARAMI, A MUSLIM, IS EAGER TO CONTINUE THE TALKS BEGUN LAST MONTH WITH TWO CHRISTIAN CABINET MINTSTERS LOYAL TO PRESIDENT GEMAYEL. THE GROUP, KNOWN AS THE COMMITTEE OF DIALOGUE, HAS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND HAS RECEIVED ONLY LUKEWARM SUPPORT FROM THE PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN, SHIA, AND DRUZE MILITIA LEADERS--THE MAIN CONTENDERS FOR POWER.

KARAMI APPEARS OPTIMISTIC, BUT THE CHRISTIANS HAVE ALL BUT RULED OUT ANY HOPE OF PROGRESS. A CHRISTIAN CABINET MINISTER INVOLVED IN THE TALKS HAS SAID THAT, AS LONG AS CHRISTIANS BELIEVE SYRIA IS THE REAL FORCE BEHIND KARAMI'S INITIATIVE, THE GROUP WILL HAVE LITTLE SUCCESS.

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LAST WEEK'S KIDNAPINGS OF TWO US CITIZENS IN WEST BEIRUT AND THE INTENSIFIED HOSTILITIES BY SHIA EXTREMISTS AGAINST UNIFIL AND THE ISRAELI-BACKED ARMY OF SOUTH LEBANON ARE SHIFTING ATTENTION FROM THE PEACE PROCESS TO THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION.

[REDACTED]

IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES AMONG LEBANON'S RIVAL FACTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO CRIPPLE EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE. MODERATE SHIA LEADER NABIH BARRI WILL REMAIN RELUCTANT TO ENDORSE THE DIALOGUE AS LONG AS THE CHALLENGES TO HIS POSITION IMPLICIT IN THE CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH PERSIST. DRUZE AND CHRISTIAN MILITIA LEADERS, WHO FACE INCREASED THREATS FROM THE RADICALIZED SHIA MOVEMENT AND FROM THE SYRIAN CHALLENGE TO THEIR MINISTATES, ARE MORE WILLING TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION--PARTICULARLY AS PROSPECTS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE CRISIS FADE.

2. EC-SOUTH AFRICA: LIMITED SANCTIONS IMPOSED

EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BRUSSELS DECIDED YESTERDAY TO IMPOSE LIMITED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA. THE NEW MEASURES INCLUDE A BAN ON IMPORTS OF IRON, STEEL, AND GOLD COINS, AS WELL AS ON NEW EC INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. COAL, WHICH WAS ON THE LTST OF ITEMS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO IN JUNE, WAS NOT INCLUDED BECAUSE OF PORTUGUESE AND, ESPECIALLY, WEST GERMAN OBJECTIONS. THE BAN ON IRON AND STEEL IMPORTS WILL TAKE EFFECT ON 27 SEPTEMBER, BUT THE OTHER SANCTIONS WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL MEANS OF ENFORCEMENT ARE WORKED OUT.

EC COAL IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA ARE WORTH MORE THAN \$780 MILLION, ALMOST TWICE THE COMBINED VALUE OF IMPORTED SOUTH AFRICAN IRON, STEEL, AND GOLD COIN. THE EXCLUSION OF COAL ENSURES THAT THE EC SANCTIONS WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY. STRONG ADVOCATES OF SANCTIONS, SUCH AS THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK, WERE FORCED TO COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO GAIN A CONSENSUS. WHILE THE QUESTION OF SANCTIONS IS PROBABLY SETTLED TEMPORARILY, THE PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA IS LIKELY TO REMAIN HIGH ON THE EC AGENDA.

3. IN BRIEF

AMERICAS

MIDDLE EAST

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EAST ASIA

--CHINESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION BEGINS VISIT TO BULGARIA, HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA THIS WEEK . . . TRIPS TO POLAND, EAST GERMANY LAST YEAR PAVED WAY FOR RETURN VISITS THIS FALL BY JARUZELSKI, HONECKER . . . BEIJING SEEKS IMPROVED TIES TO EASTERN EUROPE. [REDACTED] b3

SOUTH ASIA

--SOVIET NAVAL ATTACHE SHOT, KILLED IN ISLAMABAD YESTERDAY . . . PRESS REPORTS PAKISTANI KILLER FRUSTRATED BY INABILITY TO EMIGRATE TO USSR . . . NO APPARENT LINK TO RECENT MURDER OF IRAQI DIPLOMAT . . . HARSH SOVIET REACTION UNLIKELY. [REDACTED] b3 b3

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